MARRIAGE TO A FOREIGN NATIONAL

Pre-Marital Actions

Each service will need to reference their regulations and follow instructions provided. Members are required to go through their chain of command to inform them of their intent to marry a foreign national and will need to obtain approval by their command.

Air Force: AFI 36-2609

Army: This service does not have a regulation on foreign marriages. Please notify your chain of command of your intent to marry a foreign national.

Marines: MCO 1751.31

Navy: MILPERSMAN 5352-30

If applicable, ensure you have a certified English translation of your Marriage Certificate. Also, if your spouse is a foreign national who is not an Australian citizen, reference the Department of Home Affairs website for visa into Australia. For more information, please visit: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/

Post Marital Actions

STEP 1: Begin visa process for your spouse. Click on the link below for step by step instructions. Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders are NOT a valid authorization to enter and immigrate into the U.S. or any other country where you are moving to. Members are strongly encouraged to begin the immigration visa process right away as it is a lengthy process (7-12 months).

Visa Website: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/the-immigrant-visa-process/step-1-submit-a-petition.html

Sydney Consulate: The consulate in Sydney, Australia is the only location where visas are processed. Members are responsible for all expenses involved, to include air fare if a visit is needed. For more information, please visit: https://au.usembassy.gov/visas/visas-geninfo/

Email: support-australia@ustraveldocs.com or sydneyIV@state.gov Telephone: +61 1 300 139 399

STEP 2: Enroll Spouse in DEERS to receive a Dependent ID card. Bring two forms of ID and marriage certificate with English translation, if applicable. For more information, reference "DEERS & ID Cards" section on this website.

STEP 3: Contact International SOS to enroll spouse in TRICARE Overseas Program. Call +61 2 9273 2710. For more information, reference "Medical & Dental Care" section on this website.

STEP 4: Contact your admin section in the rear to begin Command Sponsorship process.

STEP 5: Ensure all of your military pay entitlements are updated (e.g. COLA, OHA). Contact your service admin or finance office to update your entitlements. Check your LES to make sure your entitlements were updated.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: Additionally, you may consider updating your SGLI, Death Gratuity, Will, and establishing an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number for your spouse. Following the Immigrant Visa process, you will also want to consider applying for a Social Security Number and citizenship/US passport.